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Author: Kevin C. Aiston
Subject: Rawson Issues/Recommendat

This Item is In Progress

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Pru: David called this morning with the following:

1. The U.S. military plans to withdraw its forces from Kigali and move them to Entebbe by the end of this week. They will fly back to Kigali each day on C-130's to continue providing daytime logistical support for awhile longer. The shift in basing from Kigali to Entebbe means that there will no longer be a U.S. security detachment at Kigali airport. We should ask DoD about this plan at the SVTS. Is it okay with PRM, OFDA, etc? David thinks we've done our job and that the move is okay, but he wants to make sure the UN is informed.

2. UNHCR and UNAMIR have apparently requested that the military leave off-loading and water purification equipment behind in Kigali. This request is supposedly with JCS. David thinks that if the UN needs the stuff and we can provide it, we should. We need to get a favorable decision here in Washington before DoD pulls out at week's end and takes the equipment with them. (I asked whether, if DoD was continuing daytime operations, this equipment would not perhaps stay in Kigali beyond the weekend for continued use by our own people. He was unsure but thought at least some of this equipment might go when we pull out.) DoD apparently thinks there is available equipment already in Kigali which can be used, perhaps with some repair work ...

3. Gen Schroeder has gone back to Europe and probably will return only to close out the operation. Gen. Gerald (sp?) is now Task Force commander on the ground. Despite the Sept 30 pull-out plan, Schroeder is apparently targeting Sept 15 as pull-out day.

4. David has once again repeated his recommendation that we let DoD supply the \$45,000 in fuel that radio Rwanda needs. (He raised the issue, not me.) He points out that Perry and Shally made commitments to help when they visited and we need to honor those. I explained our view that we would rather help UNAMIR get a radio and leave further assistance to Radio Rwanda to UN agencies. I also pointed out we had already provided a VOA tech assessment. David said that the relief groups have already discussed this issue and all say they can't provide the fuel. He said the VOA tech just told the Rwandans what other assessments (Deutsch Welle and DoD) had already found out. He thus did not consider that to be meaningful assistance. I told him we couldn't afford to be tied to a possible RPF propaganda radio, but he thought just giving a one-time donation of fuel would not get us too involved. In fact, he thought that assistance was the only kind that could be safely done without getting too tied to the message. I told him I would pass his views on to you.

cc: Terry McCulley, Margaret McKelvey, Phil Suter